

Message Text

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 5334

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, IR
SUBJ: STARK ACE

REF: TEHRAN 10332 OF DECEMBER 5, 1974

SUMMARY: STARK ACE REPORT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY IRANIANS. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THIS PROJECT BE HELD WITHIN REASONABLE BOUNDS AND THAT BROAD USG INTERESTS BE KEPT IN FOREGROUND. WE WOULD LIKE STATEMENT OF USG OBJECTIVES AND LIMITS FOR PROJECT. AMBASSADOR'S GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCT OF PROJECT ARE SET FORTH. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH PRESENTATION OF STARK ACE SURVEY REPORT, WE HAVE NOW ACCOMPLISHED KEY TASK IN THIS PROJECT. REPORT IS COMPREHENSIVE AND PROFESSIONAL PRODUCT WHICH GIVES IRANIAN MILITARY CLEAR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVED OPERATIONS. DOCUMENT AND TEAM'S PRESENTATION WERE WELL RECEIVED BY IRANIAN J-2 AND THREE MILITARY SERVICES COUNTRY TEAM APPROVED PRESENTATION OF REPORT DESPITE

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LACK OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THOROUGH REVIEW BECAUSE WE FELT

IT IMPORTANT TO SATISFY OBLIGATION TO GOI FOR SURVEY RESULTS WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. AS WE SEE IT, BALLIS NOW IN IRANIAN COURT. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE SOME DELAY BEFORE WE HAVE GOI REACTION. DURING THIS PERIOD WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE STOCK OF WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE WANT TO GO WITH STARK ACE.

2. OUR CONTINUING PROBLEM WITH THE REPORT IS THAT IT MAY BE TAKEN TO IMPLY A USG COMMITMENT TO A PROGRAM WHICH IS BROAD IN SCOPE AND OVERLY SPECIFIC IN TIME PHASING. CLEARLY, IF NOT PROPERLY CONTROLLED, THIS PROJECT COULD FURTHER STIMULATE STRONG IRANIAN PRESSURES FOR SENSITIVE INFORMATION, TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT AND LEAD TO REQUESTS FOR INCREASED NUMBERS OF U.S PERSONNEL IN IRAN. FURTHER, WE DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE TWO-WAY FLOW OF INFORMATION AND QUESTION WHAT ADVANTAGES PROJECT WILL BRING TO USG.

3. TO ASSURE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS FULLY UNDERSTAND HOW THIS PROJECT IS TO BE CONDUCTED, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PRECISE STATEMENT OF USG OBJECTIVES IN PROGRAM AND THE LIMITATIONS AS TO SENSITIVE AREAS THAT MUST BE RESPECTED.

4. FOR DAY TO DAY OPERATING PURPOSES, AMBASSADOR HAS SET FORTH FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

A ALL SUBSTANTIVE INITIATIVES UNDER STARK ACE PROGRAM MUST BE APPROVED BY AMBASSADOR. THIS INCLUDES ALL TRAINING COURSES EITHER HERE OR IN U.S., ANY NEW SUB-PROJECTS, VISITS BY PROJECT PERSONNEL AND SIMILAR BUSINESS.

B. UNLESS EXCEPTION IS GRANTED, NO ADDITIONAL MILITARY OR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WILL BE ASSIGNED TO MAAG OR TAFT IRAN FOR STARK ACE. REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE WILL HAVE TO BE THOROUGHLY JUSTIFIED; AMBASSADOR'S APPROVAL SHOULD NOT BE ANTICIPATED.

C. NO ONE SHOULD ENCOURAGE IRANIANS TO UNDERTAKE STARK ACE PROJECT AS A WHOLE. IF IRANIANS DECIDE TO PUT REPORT ON SHELF, WE WILL NOT OBJECT. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR ACTIVITY UNDER THIS PROJECT SHOULD COME FROM IRANIAN SIDE
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AND SHOULD BE BASED ON THEIR PERCEPTION OF REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES, NOT OURS. IRANIAN REQUEST DOES NOT, OF COURSE, IMPLY AUTOMATIC USG ACCEPTANCE.

D. MTTS AND TRAINING COURSES WILL BE LIMITED IN DURATION AND CAREFULLY SPACED OUT. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING STARK ACE TO BUILD ITS OWN MOMENTUM AND THEREBY ENCOURAGE IRANIANS IN UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

FROM PROJECT.

5. WELCOME COMMENTS.

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